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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 26, 1955

Mr. Gilbert P. Laue  
American Peoples Encyclopedia  
179 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago 1, Illinois

Dear Mr. Laue:

Mr. Dulles has asked me to reply to your letter of October 20 in which you requested a contribution on the subject of Central Intelligence for your encyclopedia.

I regret to say that we cannot have an article published over Mr. Dulles' signature. We are sending you the enclosed summary of the Agency's functions in the hope that it will be of use to you. You may, of course, make any use of it you choose.

Very truly yours,

Stanley J. Grogan  
Assistant to the Director

ODCI/SJGrogan;ucc

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THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Central Intelligence Agency was established by the National Security Act of 1947 (Section 102). This act assigned to the Agency three broad duties which had never before been adequately covered in our national intelligence structure: (1) to advise the National Security Council regarding the intelligence activities of the government and make recommendations for their coordination; (2) to provide for the central correlation, evaluation, and dissemination of intelligence relating to the national security; and (3) to assure the performance, centrally, subject to National Security Council direction, of certain intelligence and related functions of common concern to various departments of the government.

Under the terms of this law, the Central Intelligence Agency did not supersede the intelligence arms long established in the departments of State, War, and Navy. It was not designed as a competitor for any intelligence agency of the government, but as a contributor to them and as a coordinator of their intelligence activities. CIA makes maximum use of the resources of existing agencies. It does not duplicate their work but does help end duplication by seeing to it that the best qualified agency in each phase of the intelligence field should assume and carry out its particular responsibility.

Much of CIA's work is studying and analyzing foreign reports, including radio broadcasts, publications, etc., and from these studies conclusions may be drawn -- but the final study is only for the NSC and other authorized Government agencies. CIA also does independent research

HS/HC-1166

on economic, scientific, and technological intelligence and coordinates activities of other US agencies in these fields. Its estimates help guide the formulation of foreign policy and preparation of defense plans. In general, the main functions of CIA are to coordinate intelligence activities; to consolidate intelligence opinion in the form of national intelligence estimates, and to disseminate its estimates as directed by the National Security Council.

The Central Intelligence Agency has no security responsibilities within the United States other than that concerning its own personnel; it has no subpoena power, and it has no police power. When matters affecting internal security come to its attention, they are referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other interested agencies. CIA's responsibilities are limited to the area outside the United States.

The identity of CIA's personnel (except for a few in its top echelon), its budget, its methods of operation, and its information sources are all kept secret under authority granted by Congress in three separate acts: the National Security Act, the "CIA Act" of 1949, and amendments to the latter in 1953.

Applicants for CIA employment are given a full security investigation after they have been approved following preliminary tests. The Agency is actively building up a career service, new in America, in intelligence activities.

Under the revised "CIA Act", CIA may have a civilian as Director and a civilian as Deputy Director, but it may not have a military officer as Director and a military officer as Deputy at the same time. The American public understands this system and has faith in it. As of 1955, CIA

has, in Mr. Allen Welsh Dulles, a civilian Director of long experience in various intelligence activities, whose work in Switzerland in World War II helped bring about the surrender of German forces in Italy.

Mr. Dulles was one of the planners of CIA and was one of its principal operating officials for some time before becoming Deputy Director under his predecessor, General Walter Bedell Smith. Experienced, mature, understanding, Mr. Dulles, in April 1953, brought into the Agency as Deputy, a military intelligence expert, Lt. General Charles P. Cabell, formerly Director of the Joint Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Intelligence Director of the Air Force.